

REMARKS

In the Office Action of May 24, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 12-18, as certain phrases lacked antecedent basis. By this Amendment, the claims have been changed to overcome this rejection.

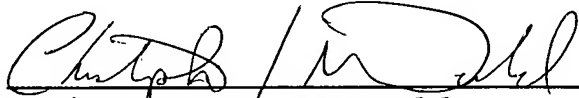
Claims 1-11, 20 and 23 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. 2002/0195463 (Seki). Claims 12-18 and 22 were rejected as obvious over Seki in view of U.S. 6,063,589 (Kellogg). The Examiner relied upon Kellogg for disclosing aeration or vent channels. Claim 19 was rejected as obvious over Seki in view of U.S. 6,465,225 (Fuhr). The Examiner relied upon Fuhr for disclosing a meander-shaped channel system. Lastly, the Examiner rejected claim 21 as obvious over Seki in view of U.S. 7,144,743 (Boschetti). The Examiner relied upon Boschetti for disclosing absorbents with analytical microfluidic biochip devices. Reconsideration of these rejections in view of amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that there are a plurality of second channels and each second channel is filled sequentially. Any individual second channel is not filled until the one before it has completed filling. No two second channels are being filled at the same time. Fluid from the outlet of the first channel stops at a first branch point and fills the first second channel. Only after filling of the first second channel is complete does fluid in the first channel move to the next branch point does the filling of the next second channel start.

New claim 25 recites that the first and second channels are formed as cavities in the same sample carrier. In the prior art, the channels are formed from different sample carriers and having channels in the same sample carrier allows the channels to be covered by the same film foil or cover.

The claims are allowable and favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. A one month extension of time accompanies this response. If any additional fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher J. McDonald", written over a horizontal line.

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